

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 12 with the following rewritten version:

-- The transfer mechanism 32 moves the holding mechanisms 31 so that the bag B is transferred from the abovementioned holding point P1 to a fixing point P2 (refer to Figure 4 and Figure 9) discussed later. In other words, the transfer mechanism 32 transfers the bag B from the holding point P1 to the fixing point P2 by moving the holding mechanisms 31 that hold the bag B. Thereby, the transfer mechanism 32 transfers the bag B to a position in which the bag B mounted to the strip S (refer to the upper bag B in Figure 4) does not interfere with the transverse sealing mechanism 17 or the bag B to be subsequently discharged downward from the transverse sealing mechanism 17 (refer to the upper bag B in Figure 9). --.